



Respond to Discover Peace !

You "ought always to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1 NKJV)."

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orship is essentially prayer. Praying for peace and justice in the world is not always easy.

We need to depend on God and rely on him fully in order to be agents of peace to the world around us. That means we need to engage prayer with a repentant heart, asking God to transform who we are so that Christ may be glorified in and through us. Christ's coming to Bethlehem that first Christmas brought the message of hope and peace in the form of a human that the world might respond to him. The prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist both called for repentance and forgiveness of sin that hope for the world would be renewed through Christ. By responding to Christ through prayer we identify our need for his help to keep us from sin.

Peace brings harmony and unity. Focus in prayer needs to be on what Christ desires to do and accomplish in and through us. Often we have made prayer and worship about our own needs and desires and not asking what he desires to accomplish. Contemporary music artist and song writer, Matt Redman writes, "I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about you, all about you Jesus. I'm sorry Lord for the things I've made it, when it's all about you, all about you Jesus." The call of Christ is to come to him and find rest (Matthew 11:28). As we confess our sins and put aside all the things that hinder us from finding rest in him, we will find peace. Christ will bring unity and harmony when we allow him to take control of our lives.

Responding to God in prayer continually will be what sustains us in this life. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV)" will allow us to live the Christian life and endure every hardship. Let's continue to prepare for Christ's coming, both his coming to earth in the flesh as we celebrate his nativity, and his coming again to take us to be where he is (John 14:3). Let's be found in him and be doing the right things in his sight (Philippians 3:9-11).